

DRAFT:JGO:fmc (typed 16 January 1975)

National Council of Irish Americans  
Ellicott Square Building  
Buffalo, New York 14203

Attention: Mr. William Driscoll

Dear Mr. Driscoll:

I have your letters of 17 September 1974 and 16 December 1974 concerning allegations that the Central Intelligence Agency has been acting in Northern Ireland.

You will understand, I trust, that there are, in this day and age, continual allegations about this, that or the other supposed "operation" involving the CIA. The Director is charged by law with the protection of intelligence sources and methods. In consonance with this charge, it has been our <sup>general</sup> tradition not to comment--one way or the other--on the spectrum of allegations about us.

I hope you will understand, therefore, how we cannot address ourselves to the matter which you have raised in your letter.

The Director is, of course, grateful to you for having shared your thoughts on the matter with him.

Sincerely,

Angus MacLean Thuermer  
Assistant to the Director

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF IRISH AMERICANS

ELLICOTT SQUARE BUILDING

BUFFALO, N. Y. 14203

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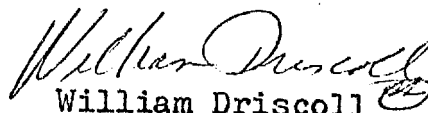
Mr. William Colby, Director  
Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Two months ago, we wrote you concerning evidence which indicated that the CIA was acting in Northern Ireland. I enclose just one newspaper report to that effect. Would you please show us the courtesy of a reply.

In the absence of a reply, we can only assume that these reports are true and the CIA is, in fact, operating in Northern Ireland in an effort to assist the British army. This is a most serious matter to thousands of Irish Americans and we believe we are entitled to an answer to the query we have put forth.

Respectfully yours,

  
William Driscoll  
Press Officer

WD/s

ELLICOTT SQUARE BUILDING

BUFFALO, N. Y. 14203

September 17, 1974

Mr. William Colby  
c/o Central Intelligence Agency  
Washington, D. C.

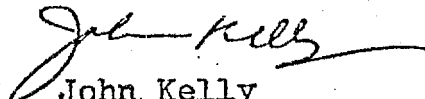
Dear Sir:

Recent disclosures of CIA involvement in Chilean affairs has disturbed a number of our members.

For about 5 years, we have received reports of CIA involvement in Northern Ireland. Information indicates that CIA agents are present in that area and are working in conjunction with British army intelligence units as well as Scotland Yard. We fail to see how this type of operation furthers any legitimate American interest.

Would you kindly confirm or deny CIA presence in Northern or Southern Ireland.

Sincerely yours,

  
John, Kelly  
Press Officer

JK/s